

Kennedy James Hanley

Kennedy James Hanley was born December 1845 in County Clare, Ireland. He was the son of Kennedy and Hanley and Catherine Murphy.¹ Kennedy immigrated about 1854 and became a naturalized citizen of the United States.² On the 1860 census, he was a day laborer, living with his three brothers and a sister-in-law in Bucyrus Township, Crawford, Ohio.³ He worked in Pioche, Lincoln, Nevada, in the early 1870s.⁴ By 1879, he was living in Churchill Precinct, Lyon, Nevada.⁵

Kennedy married Echo Workman Geary about 1879 in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory. They had two sons. Kennedy was a blacksmith.⁶ In 1886, Kennedy was a juror for a case of unlawful cohabitation. The jury was unable to come to a decision and was dismissed; Kennedy voted for acquittal due to flimsy evidence.⁷ In 1891, they were living in Milo, Bonneville, Idaho.⁸ By 1898, they had moved to Wardner, Shoshone, Idaho, where Kennedy had interests in several mines, including the Skookum copper mine. Kennedy owned 1/8th and then 1/3rd of the mining interests. The other owners, Sweeney and Clark of Washington State, represented the mine as of no worth when actually it was putting out millions of dollars of ore.⁹

Kennedy sued over his share of the product but the decision went against him in 1900, due to some complications about the original deed and whether Kennedy was representing himself or a company.¹⁰ The judgment was reversed in 1901 and remanded for further proceedings.¹¹ He was awarded the 1/8th interest in 1902, with an injunction that the others could not extract any further ore. They organized in 1903 and mined, mixing the ore with that of other mines to disguise it.¹² In “one of the most celebrated actions ever brought in the US court”¹³, Kennedy eventually received \$175,867.02 with interests and costs since 1898.¹⁴

On the 1900 census, Kennedy was a capitalist, living with his wife and son in Kellogg, Shoshone, Idaho. His younger son was attending Gonzaga College in Spokane, Washington.¹⁵ In 1906, Kennedy bought 25,000 acres in eastern Oregon for \$300,000, probably the largest timber deal made in the northwest.¹⁶ He continued mining, living at the Hotel Spokane, from 1907-1909.¹⁷ In 1907, his \$3500 automobile was wrecked when his chauffeur and his carousing friends collided with a telephone pole, turned over and blew up. The chauffeur had not been seen since.¹⁸

¹ Ireland Catholic Parish Registers.

² United States Census, 1920.

³ United States Census, 1860.

⁴ Ogden Standard-Examiner, 1 November 1921, p. 2

⁵ Nevada Territorial Census, Index, 1870.

⁶ United States Census, 1880.

⁷ *Salt Lake Herald*, 28 April 1886, p. 8.

⁸ *Salt Lake Herald*, 25 November 1891, p. 2.

⁹ US Circuit Court of Appeals, No 934.

¹⁰ *Idaho Statesman*, 13 January 1899, p. 4; 2 January 1900, p. 6; *Salt Lake Herald*, 31 October 1903, p. 6.

¹¹ *San Francisco Call*, 7 May 1901, p. 12.

¹² *San Francisco Chronicle*, 31 October 1903, p. 13.

¹³ *Salt Lake Herald*, 8 May 1903, p. 2.

¹⁴ US Circuit Court of Appeals, No 934.

¹⁵ United States Census, 1900.

¹⁶ *Adams County News*, 23 May 1906, p. 1.

¹⁷ US City Directories, 1822-1995.

¹⁸ *Spokane Press*, 9 October 1907, p. 1.

In 1909, the Shoshone county sheriff attached the Skookum Lode claim to satisfy a judgment of \$55,659.63 in favor of Augustus Heinz against Kennedy, who had permitted the time allowed for appeal from the trial court to lapse.¹⁹ On the 1910 census, he was a real estate agent, living with his wife in a hotel in Spokane.²⁰ He was the president of Hayden-Coeur d'Alene Irrigation Company, living at the Hotel Spokane, from 1910-1913.²¹ They continued living in Spokane until 1920, when they moved to Redwood, Santa Clara, California.²²

Kennedy died 31 October 1921 in Los Gatos, Santa Clara, California and was buried in Los Gatos Cemetery.²³ Echo lived with her son in Los Gatos until 1924, when she moved to San Jose, San Jose, California.²⁴ She died 1936 in Los Gatos and was buried there.²⁵



(Image from *Ancestry.com*)

Research by Elaine Young, Silver Reef Foundation historian, 2016
Please email eyoung@youngzones.org for additions and corrections

¹⁹ *Ogden Standard*, 23 February 1909, p. 2.

²⁰ United States Census, 1910.

²¹ US City Directories, 1822-1995.

²² *Ibid*; United States Census, 1920.

²³ California Death Index, 1905-1939; *Findagrave.com*, *Billiongraves.com*

²⁴ United States Census, 1930; US City Directories, 1822-1995.

²⁵ Utah Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database, 1847-1868; California Death Index, 1905-1939; *Billiongraves.com*